

Appl. No. 09/699,923
Request for Continued Exam.
Resp. to OA of March 17, 2003

2. *Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (*Cancelled*)

Claim 12. (*Withdrawn*) A method of preparing a dendritic cell population comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate a dendritic cell population;
- (b) transfecting the dendritic cells with a gene encoding an antigen; and
- (c) allowing the dendritic cells to process and express the antigen.

Claim 13. (*Withdrawn*) A method according to claim 12, further comprising contacting the hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with a molecule selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, IL-4, TNF- α , IL-3, c-kit ligand, fusions of GM-CSF and IL-3, CD40 ligand, and CD40 antibody.

Claim 14 (*Cancelled*)

Claim 15 (*Currently amended*) A method of preparing a dendritic cell population comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate a dendritic cell population;
- (b) exposing the dendritic cells to an antigen; and
- (c) allowing the dendritic cells to process and express the antigen,

wherein flt3-ligand is the only colony stimulating factor or cytokine used in the method.

Claim 16 (*Previously presented*) The method according to claim 15 further comprising contacting the hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with GM-CSF.

Claim 17 (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 12 wherein the flt3-ligand is a recombinant human flt3-ligand.

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Claim 18. (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 13 wherein the flt3-ligand is a recombinant human flt3-ligand.

Claim 19. (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 13 wherein the molecule is a recombinant human GM-CSF.

Claim 20. (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 13 wherein the molecule is CD40 ligand.

Claim 21. (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 13 wherein the molecule is c-kit ligand.

Claim 22. (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 13 wherein the molecule is TNF- α .

Claim 23 (*Previously presented*) The method according to claim 15 wherein the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand.

Claim 24 (*Previously presented*) The method according to claim 16 wherein the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand.

Claim 25 (*Previously presented*) The method according to claim 16 wherein the GM-CSF is human GM-CSF.

Claim 26. (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 16 wherein the molecule is CD40 ligand.

Claim 27. (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 16 wherein the molecule is c-kit ligand.

Claim 28. (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 16 wherein the molecule is TNF- α .

Claim 29 (*Currently amended*) A method of preparing a dendritic cell population, the method comprising contacting in vitro hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate a dendritic cell population, thereby generating the dendritic cell population, wherein flt3-ligand is the only colony stimulating factor or cytokine used in the method.

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Claim 30 (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 29, wherein the hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells have been enriched for the CD34+ phenotype.

Claim 31 (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 29, further comprising contacting the dendritic cells with GM-CSF.

Claim 32 (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 31, wherein the GM-CSF is human GM-CSF.

Claim 33. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 31, wherein the molecule is TNF- α .

Claim 34. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 31, wherein the molecule is c-kit ligand.

Claim 35. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 31, wherein the molecule is CD40 ligand.

Claim 36 (*Previously presented*) The method according to claim 29 wherein the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand.